

Message Text

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SUBJ: INDICTMENT ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH FEB 1975

MILITARY CONSPIRACY

REF ATHENS 4434

1. THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE ATHENS PERMANENT COURT MARTIAL ON JUNE 27 INDICATED 21 OF THE ORIGINAL 39 HELLENIC ARMY OFFICERS CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH LAST FEBRUARY'S ABORTIVE MILITARY CONSPIRACY. (DURING THE INVESTIGATION, THE CHARGES AGAINST THE OTHER 18 NAMED IN THE CONSPIRACY WERE DROPPED.) THE INDICTMENT CHARGED THE DEFENDANTS WITH CONSPIRACY TO CARRY OUT AN ACT OF REBELLION ("STASISZL USISNG VIOLENCE AND GENERALLY DISTURBING PUBLIC PEACE AND QUIET WHILE DISOBEYING ORDERS FROM SUPERIORS TO DESIST FROM SUCH ACTS.

2. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE INDICTMENT CHARGED THAT, WHILE UPHOLDING THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE DEFENDANTS VIOLATED MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND ILLEGALLY TOOK UP ARMS WITH THE AIM OF STOPPING THE FURTHER PERSECUTION OF THOSE WHO IN THE DEFENDANTS' OPINION ARE "NATIONALISTIC-MINDED CITIZENS", OF REDUCING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE), OF OBTAINING THE RETURN OF THE
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COUNTRY TO THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO AND THE RELEASE FROM

PRISON OF THE DETAINED JUNTA LEADERS. THE INDICTMENT REITERATES THE CHARGE THAT THE CONSPIRATORS DECIDED TO USE ARMED FORCE ILLEGALLY TO SEIZE THE TANK TRAINING CENTER NEAR ATHENS, TO CAPTURE THE FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ETC.

3. IN ADDITION, THE INDICTMENT MENTIONS THAT THE LEADERS OF THE CONSPIRACY ARE FORMER JUNTA STRONGMAN IOANNIDES AND DIMITRIOS PAPAPOSTOLOU (PARA 3 OF REFTTEL), WHO WILL BE TRIED BY THE CIVIL COURTS RATHER THAN COURT MARTIAL SINCE THEY WERE NO LONGER ON ACTIVE DUTY AT THE TIME OF THE PLOT. THE ACCUSED ALL DENIED THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

4. THE WEEKED PRESS GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE INDICTMENT. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE TRIAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE JULY; SOME NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED ON JULY 21. (NOTE THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL WILL SERVE AS A CURTAIN RAISER FOR THE MORE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TRIALS-- APRIL 21 COUP LEADERS, JUNTA PERIOD TORTURERS, CYPRUS COUP INSTIGATORS, AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE POLYTECHNION UPRISING--WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE LATER THIS SUMMER AND ALL INVOLVING FORMER JUNTA FIGURES.)
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